

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS MUST WITHSTAND SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the Pentagon confirmed House and Senate Republicans' concerns by finally acknowledging that the Overseas Contingency Operations, a fund used to support troops in combat, will be subject to the sequestration cuts.

The Office of Management and Budget's senior adviser and associate director for Communications and Strategic Planning, Kenneth Baer, understands that if the sequester "were to take effect, it would be disastrous for our national security."

House Republicans have always been aware of the impacts sequestration will have on our brave men and women serving in uniform and the impacts it will have on their families. Last month, House Republicans passed the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation package, which is legislation that reduces the spending for unnecessary programs used to promote the President's liberal agenda, in order to use those funds to provide for a strong national defense. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take action immediately and pass this bill.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### PREVENT THE DOUBLING OF THE STUDENT LOAN RATE

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, in less than 1 month, the interest rate for student loans is scheduled to double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

This increased rate, combined with the skyrocketing costs for college, will make it extremely difficult for Ameri-

cans to afford to go to college. The cost for a higher education at a public 4-year school has almost tripled in the last 17 years. Americans now owe more money in tuition than they do in credit cards. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, educational loan debt in our country has reached \$1 trillion.

Education is one of the biggest determining factors for earning potential. Those who have bachelor's degrees earn double the salary of those with high school diplomas. Those with associate degrees earn 50 percent more than those with high school diplomas. I am also a strong supporter of fully funding Pell Grants, which provide Federal grant aid for students to make college more affordable.

Access to higher education is an investment in the future economic stability of our Nation. We must put aside partisan differences and work together to preserve Pell Grants and to prevent the student loan rate from doubling on July 1.

#### STUDENTS BEAR THE BRUNT OF A BAD ECONOMY

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is a tough time to be a student in America.

The President's health care bill, if not repealed, will make school health plans much more expensive. According to The Wall Street Journal, some plans that were \$440 a year are going up to \$1,300 or \$1,600. Many schools will drop coverage altogether either because of cost or because of the President's birth control requirement. Students and young adults will then likely choose the cheapest option—going uninsured and paying a fine to the government.

Then, in July, student loan interest rates are set to increase because of choices made by leading Democrats. Student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt in U.S. households, and the rate at which recent grads are underemployed or unemployed is 50 percent. No wonder students are moving back in with their parents and are more likely to take part-time jobs just to make ends meet.

These failed policies and the bad economy have pushed young adults into survival mode.

#### THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS HEALTH & SAFETY INSTITUTE'S CALL TO ACTION

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute. I am pleased to serve as an honorary member of the institute's leadership board.

In the United States, 50 million children participate in sports. Sports pro-

grams teach our children leadership and sportsmanship, help improve academics, and promote fitness and wellness for a lifetime, but more needs to be done to ensure the health and safety of our youth athletes.

They are increasingly susceptible to injuries, which is why the institute's work to advance and disseminate the latest research in keeping kids safe on the field is so critical. On June 1, the National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute met to launch a new call to action to all youth sports' stakeholders in America.

As founder and cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I applaud this effort. As inactivity remains alarmingly widespread, we must continue to expand sports and recreational opportunities that promote physical activity and wellness in the health of our children, but also always remember that their safety must remain paramount.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost more than \$15 billion to cronyism. Pennsylvanians alone have lost \$1.4 billion.

Right now, in southern Nevada, there is an expensive hole in the ground where there should be a nuclear waste repository. We should be storing dangerous nuclear waste at a single secure and geologically sound location. Instead, much of it sits aboveground at dozens of sites scattered across the United States.

When President Obama appointed HARRY REID's aide, Gregory Jaczko, as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman, he shut down Yucca Mountain against the express wishes of Congress. Jaczko even tried to stop the application process, defying a court order to continue certifying the safety of the facility.

Yesterday, this House overwhelmingly voted to give the NRC an additional \$10 million to do its job. No more excuses. Do the work so that we know whether Yucca Mountain is safe.

#### NATIONAL OCEANS WEEK

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a strong American future depends on the sound stewardship of our oceans.

Nowhere is the ocean more magnificent and majestic than off of northern California's Sonoma County coast. These are some of the most abundant waters on Earth, but much of the area is vulnerable to "drill, baby, drill" enthusiasts.

That's why I have offered a bill to more than double the size of our existing national marine sanctuary off